

*C. J. H.*

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Olivier HERBAUT

SERIAL NO.: 09/170,189

ART UNIT: 3618

FILED: October 13, 1998

EXAMINER: Fleming, F.

TITLE: AIR BAG COVER

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GROUP 3800

AMENDMENT "D"

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of July 16, 2001, a response being due with a three month extension of time by January 16, 2002, please consider the following remarks:

REMARKS

Upon consideration of the following remarks, original Claims 17 - 22 remain in this case. Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present remarks are intended to distinguish the present invention from the prior art Rhodes patent.

In the Official Action, it was indicated that Claims 17 - 22 were rejected as being obvious over the Rhodes '819 patent.

As an overview to the present reply, Applicant notes that this application has been extensively examined. In particular, the Rhodes patent is the fifth different document that has been cited by the Examiner's in the rejection of the present application. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's analysis relative to the rejection of independent Claims 17 and 20 based upon the Rhodes patent. Applicant respectfully contends that the Rhodes patent is simply cumulative relative to the other prior art patents cited against the present invention.

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## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence comprising:

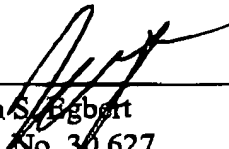
## AMENDMENT "D"

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail  
in an envelope addressed to:Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

on January 16, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

1-16-02  
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John S. Egbert  
Reg. No. 30,627  
Attorney for ApplicantHarrison & Egbert  
412 Main Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002  
(713)224-8080  
(713)223-4873 (Fax)